

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008732

14

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 ARA-10 EA-09

EUR-12 IO-11 NEA-10 OPIC-06 SIL-01 /154 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: ESCAPE CLAUSE PROCEEDING ON ASPARAGUS -- INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION EQUALLY DIVIDED IN ITS FINDINGS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PERTINENT PART OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (USITC) PRESS RELEASE ISSUED JANUARY 12 ANNOUNCING THAT THE MEMBERSHIP WAS EVENLY DIVIDED ON THE QUESTION OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF DOMESTIC PRODUCERS OF FRESH ASPARAGUS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE IMPORT RELIEF
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PAGE 02 STATE 008732

PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974: BEGIN TEXT:
THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION HAS CON-

CLUDED ITS INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES BY THE ASPARAGUS INDUSTRY OF SERIOUS INJURY FROM IMPORTS. AFTER AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION, THE COMMISSION WAS EQUALLY DIVIDED IN ITS VOTE. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930, AS AMENDED, WHEN THE COMMISSION'S VOTE IS EVENLY SPLIT, AS IN TODAY'S RULING, THE PRESIDENT MAY CONSIDER EITHER POSITION AS THE OFFICIAL FINDING.

COMMISSIONERS GEORGE M. MOORE, CATHERINE BEDELL, AND ITALO H. ABLONDI JOINED IN VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. VOTING IN THE NEGATIVE WERE COMMISSIONERS WILL E. LEONARD, DANIEL MINCHEW, AND JOSEPH O. PARKER. THOSE VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE INCLUDED WITH THEIR FINDING THE RECOMMENDATION

THAT AN IMPORT QUOTA BE IMPOSED ON FRESH ASPARAGUS WHICH WOULD ALLOW NO MORE THAN 700,000 POUNDS TO BE IMPORTED IN ANY ONE MONTH DURING FEBRUARY, MARCH, OR APRIL OF THE NEXT 3 YEARS. THIS QUOTA WOULD BE INCREASED BY 175,000 POUNDS FOR THE FOURTH YEAR AND BY 350,000 POUNDS FOR THE FIFTH YEAR. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SIXTH YEAR, THE QUOTA WOULD EXPIRE.

THE COMMISSION OPENED ITS INVESTIGATION UNDER THE QUOTE ESCAPE CLAUSE END QUOTE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT INTO CHARGES OF SERIOUS INJURY TO A DOMESTIC INDUSTRY RESULTING FROM IMPORTS OF ASPARAGUS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A PETITION FROM THE CALIFORNIA GROWERS ASSOCIATION, THE WASHINGTON ASPARAGUS GROWERS ASSOCIATION, AND A NUMBER OF UNAFFILIATED WEST COAST GROWERS. THE INVESTIGATION INCLUDED PUBLIC HEARINGS IN BOTH SAN FRANCISCO AND WASHINGTON, D.C. THE COMMISSION ALREADY HAD SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS A RESULT OF A PREVIOUS ASPARAGUS INDUSTRY STUDY REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ASPARAGUS GROWERS AND PROCESSORS IN THE UNITED STATES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT 30,000 JOBS IN 1974, LOCATED CHIEFLY IN CALIFORNIA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, AND MICHIGAN. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION IN 1974 FOR THE MARKET TOTALED ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 008732

260 MILLION POUNDS. AN ADDITIONAL 19.1 MILLION POUNDS WAS IMPORTED, ORIGINATING PRIMARILY IN MEXICO AND TAIWAN. END TEXT.

2. EXECUTIVE AGENCIES WILL ANALYZE REPORT AND FORMULATE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT MAY ACCEPT MODIFY OR REJECT THE PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPOSITION OF QUANTITATIVE LIMITATIONS ON FRESH ASPARAGUS IMPORTS.

3. GENEVA AND PARIS INFORM GATT AND OECD SECRETARIATS

RESPECTIVELY.

4. COMMISSIONS' REPORT WILL BE AIR POUCHED ASAP. KISSINGER

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